

Council Workshop
August 30, 2005

Mayor Marse called to order the fire department workshop of August 30, 2005.

Members Present: Mayor J.M. Marse, Council members Charlie Simmons, Earl King, Jean Arrant, and Ray Jackson were present. Council member Mike Helton was absent. Also present: City Clerk Diane Riley, Walton Co. Administrator Ronnie Bell, Fire Manager, Eddie Rivers, EOC Director, Ed Baldzey and Matt Douglas, EMS Manager.

Councilman King gave the invocation and the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Ronnie Bell submitted information to the Council on the requirements under FL Statutes for firefighter employment and the six year fire/rescue plan of Walton County. He briefly went through each area of the statute and plan. The information was discussed for sometime and the Council seemed content with the information provide. The Council main concern is that the current volunteers we have will be first in consideration for employment if the County takes over the fire department. Mr. Bell and his team were adamant that they needed competent personnel and they would be considered first. Also, they stressed the need for continuing having volunteers and did not want the City's force to be misled on the running of the department. Current Fire Chief Sullivan made some remarks about the County manager skills in other fire department areas. Councilman Simmons reminded the audience that the Council would make the final decision on the management of the FD, and it would take in consideration every thing involved. He felt that this was no need for mud slinging on this matter and would talk with the current fire department in Freeport and get input from their side. The bottom line is the Council intends to make a call that best fits the circumstances presented by Freeport.

With no other business, motioned to adjourned at 8:25 pm.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

J.M. Marse, Mayor

Diane Riley, City Clerk

Earl King, President of Council